

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0000
COAST GUARD WASDC 0000
GOVGUAM 0000
TREASURY DEPARTMENT WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS STATE 121591

ATTN PARIS FOR JACK MARESCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 12 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

ALL MORNING PAPERS GIVE PROMINENT PLAY TO REPORTED 5/9
SINO-SOVIET USSURI BORDER INCIDENT. (SEE COMMENT/ANALYSIS
SECTION.)

REUTER (MOSOCW 5/11) REPORTS "PRAVDA" COMMENTATOR, WRITING
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THURS AS CHRMN HUA WAS RETURNING PEKING FROM NK TRIP,
WARNED NATIONS OF AREA BEWARE OF "SIREN VOICES FROM PEKING."
COMMENTATOR QUOTED MAO AS SAYING, "WE MUST GET HOLD OF
SOUTHEAST ASIA."

VICE PREMIER KU TOLD REPORTERS IN PARIS THURS THAT HUA
HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION FROM GISCARD D'ESTAING TO VISIT
FRANCE; ADDED THAT DATE OF VISIT TO BE FIXED LATER (REUTER
PARIS 5/11).

REUTER'S MACKENZIE (PEKING) REPORTS WRITER MAO TUN (PEN NAME OF SHEN YEN-PING, 81) TALKED AT LENGTH RECENTLY THRU INTERPRETER TO 2 CORRESPONDENTS ABOUT CHINESE LITERATURE/FUTURE FOR YOUNG WRITERS UNDER COMMUNISM. MAO PREDICTED

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR HIS COUNTRY'S YOUNG WRITERS--BUT W/IN DEFINITE POL BOUNDS; ALSO SAID FIRST-CLASS CHINESE NOVEL, COMBINING REVOLUTIONARY REALISM/REVOLUTIONARY ROMANTICISM IN "COMPREHENSIVE AND PROFOUND MANNER," HAS YET TO BE WRITTEN.

WSJ REPORTS CRIMINAL CONTEMPT CHARGES FILED IN SFO FEDRL COURT AGAINST "CHINA AIRLINES"/7 TRAVEL AGENCIES/ONE TRAVEL AGENT, FOR ALLEGEDLY VIOLATING '76 INJUNCTION BY SELLING AFFINITY GROUP AIR TICKETS TO INDIVIDUALS NOT QUALIFIED FOR THEM. AIRLINES' GEN COUNSEL SAID IT WILL CONTEST "SELECTIVE PROSECUTION OF JUST ONE CARRIER"; DENIED AIRLINES' COMPLICITY IN MATTER/SAID IT ISN'T IN CONTEMPT OF COURT/CLAIMED INJUNCTION IT IS ACCUSED OF VIOLATING INVOLVED 13 PACIFIC AIR CARRIERS.

2. INDOCHINA

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FAR EAST ECON REVIEW MAG SAYS HANOI HAS TOLD WASHINGTON--IN MESSAGE DELIVERED BY UNNAMED 3RD COUNTRY--THAT VN READY ESTABLISH DIPLO RELS W/US. ARTICLE STATES VN'S ECON DIFFICULTIES/WORSENING RELS W/PRC HAVE BROUGHT "SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION" IN VIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS US (REUTER HK).

OFFICIAL VN NEWS AGENCY SAYS VIET FORCES STOPPED NEARLY 600 CAMBODIAN SOLDIERS IN NEW BORDER CLASHES EARLY THIS MONTH. SEVERAL CAMBODIAN SOLDIERS REPORTED CAPTURED IN FIGHTING AT SONG BE/TAY NINH PROVINCES (REUTER HK 5/11).

3. VIETNAM

DAVID TRUONG, CHARGED W/PASSING CLASSIFIED INFO TO SRV, DENIED THURS THAT HE HAD EVER PROVIDED VIET OFFICIALS IN PARIS/NY W/ANY MATERIAL OTHER THAN SENATOR'S SPEECH/ CONGRESSIONAL RECORD/TECHNICAL BOOKS/ETC. TESTIFIED HE HAD COLLECTED INFO ON US-VIET RELS FOR MORE THAN 10 YRS/ OFTEN TURNED IT OVER TO US OFFICIALS AS WELL AS FRIENDS IN VN. AT 1ST, PURPOSE OF EFFORT WAS TO HELP END WAR, HE SAID; THEN TO HELP BUILD WAR-TORN COUNTRY, BRING AMERICANS/ VIETS TOGETHER. SAID HE WAS NEVER ASKED SPY BY FORMER UN REP DINH BA THI/HAD NEVER PROVIDED HIM CLASSIFIED MATERIAL, THO HE DID PASS OTHER MATERIAL TO HIM. ALSO SAID HE HAD NEVER BEEN PAID BY SRV; HAD ONLY HELPED SET UP VIET ORGS IN US TO HELP KEEP VIETS INFORMED ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY AND HAD SENT INFO TO ORG'S NEWSLETTER IN PARIS.

TRUONG EXPECTED TESTIFY MONDAY ABOUT SPECIFIC CABLES IN QUESTION (SEABERRY, WP; BURNHAM, NYT).

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, NYT SAYS IT BECAME KNOWN THURS THAT CIA ONCE CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING RECRUIT TRUONG TO BE UNDERCOVER AGENT. INFO DISCLOSED MONDAY TO JUDGE/LAWYERS, BUT NOT TO JURY.

SUN'S LEWTHWAITE DOES BACKGROUND PIECE ON TRIAL, QUOTES UNCLASSIFIED

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DEP ASST SECY SIEVERTS THAT CO-INDICTEE HUMPHREY WAS MAN "ALMOST DRIVEN" IN HIS DETERMINATION BE REUNITED W/VIET COMMON-LAW WIFE.

4. PHILIPPINES

MARCOS SAID THURS HE WOULD SUSPEND LAW-MAKING POWERS UNDER MARTIAL LAW WHEN HE CONVENES INTERIM NATL ASSEMBLY, BUT WILL INVOKE THEM AGAIN IF ASSEMBLY "DOES NOT PERFORM ITS DUTY." HOWEVER, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE HE WOULD NOT NEED RESUME LEGISLATIVE POWERS CONSIDERING "QUALITY"/"DEDICATION" ASSEMBLY MEMBERS (AP, SUN).

5. JAPAN

JAPAN'S CENTRAL BANK WELCOMES FRB DECISION TO RAISE BANK RATE/SAYS MOVE SHOULD HELP STRENGTHEN DOLLAR'S VALUE AGAINST OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES (REUTER TOKYO).

BANK OF TOKYO FOREX SPECIALISTS PREDICT YEN WILL MAKE FURTHER GAINS AGAINST DOLLAR THIS YR. OTHER BANK SOURCE SAYS FINANCE MINISTRY ALREADY PREPARED ACCEPT HIGHER YEN RATE/HAS ALREADY ABANDONED INTERVENTION POLICY (SCOTT-STOKES, NYT).

INTL AIR TRANSPORT ASSN DIRECTOR-GENRL TOLD TOKYO NEWS CONF FRIDAY HE WAS SATISFIED W/SECURITY MEASURES AT NARITA AIRPORT. EXPRESSED BELIEF GOJ WOULD BE ABLE PROTECT AIRPORT/PASSENGERS FROM LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS (REUTER TOKYO).

6. KOREA

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SFRC VOTED 5/11 TO REQUIRE PRES GIVE CONGRESS COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON VIABILITY EACH SKOREAN TROOP PULLOUT 4 MONTHS IN ADVANCE. CMTE ALSO APPROVED AMENDMENT STATING THAT AS UNITS W/DRAWN, THEIR EQUIPMENT SHOULD

BE TRANSFERRED TO SK TOGETHER W/TRAINING ON ITS USE.
HIRC APPROVED SIMILAR AMENDMENT, BUT IMPOSED 800-MIL-
DOL LIMIT ON EQUIPMENT TRANSFER (REUTER 5/11).

DOD NOTIFIED CONGRESS 5/11 OF ITS INTENT SELL SK 67-
MIL-DOLS WORTH FIGHTER AIRCRAFT/SPARE PARTS, 1,100
ANTI-TANK MISSILES. CONGRESS HAS 30 DAYS DISAPPROVE
(REUTER 5/11).

UNC WARNED NK 5/11 AGAINST SENDING MORE ARMED SPYBOATS
INTO SK WATERS, SAYING THEY WOULD "MEET THE SAME
FATE" AS VESSEL SUNK LAST MONTH (GLOBE).

ROKG INQUIRY BOARD SAID THURS IT COULD NOT DETERMINE
WHY KAL JET INTRUDED SOVIET AIRSPACE 4/20. BOARD
STILL SEEKING OBTAIN COPIES OF FLIGHT DATA FROM
RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES (AP, PHINQ).

7. BURMA

OFFICIAL SOURCES SAY MORE THAN 20,000 REFUGEES FROM
BURMA CROSSED INTO BANGLADESH OVER PAST 2 DAYS,
BRINGING TOTAL NUMBER REFUGEES THERE TO 1.25 MILLION.
REFUGEES--MOSTLY MOSLEMS--TOLD DACCA GOVT THOUSANDS
MORE WAITING CROSS FRONTIER (REUTER DACCA, 5/11).

REUTER'S ALAM (DACCA 5/11) REPORTS REFUGEE SITUATION
CAUSING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS FOR BANGLADESH/CAUSING
RIFT IN ITS RELS W/BURMA. NOTES DACCA HAS CALLED FOR
REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES, WHILE BURMA DENIES REPORTS
THAT REFUGEES DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES AT GUNPOINT.
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8. MONDALE TRIP

COSITGAN (WP CANBERRA) SAYS WHILE IN AUSTRALIA,
MONDALE LECTURED BY FRASER ON WHAT'S WRONG W/PRES
CARTER'S ECONOMICS. ACCORDING OFFICIALS ON BOTH
SIDES, FRASER CALLED ON US TO BACK PLANS FOR COMMON
FUND TO SUPPORT PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES PRODUCED
BY 3RD WORLD. MONDALE REPORTEDLY REPLIED "NO CHANCE"
US WOULD SUPPORT IDEA. FRASER THEN SAID CARTER
SHOULD TACKLE INFLATION 1ST, AND MONDALE-ALLUDING TO
AUSTRALIA'S GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT--RESPONDED THAT US
DOESN'T INTEND SOLVE INFLATION PROBLEMS "BY MASSIVE
UNEMPLOYMENT."

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. KOREA

WP EDIT CITES CONGRESS' APPROVAL FOR 800-MIL-DOL ARMS

TRANSFER/FINANCING 732 MIL DOLS FOR NUKE PURCHASE/REFUSAL
CUT AGRIC AID TO SK. STATES WHILE EACH MOVE HAD ITS

REASON, CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THESE "CONCESSIONS" CALLS
INTO QUESTION CONGRESS' DETERMINATION COMPLETE INFLUENCE-
BUYING INVESTIGATION. URGES MORE BE DONE TO OBTAIN
DIRECT COMMUNICATION W/KIM DONG JO. SUGGESTS HOUSE
ACT IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS TO DISPEL ANY KOREAN IDEA
THAT "HEAT IS OFF" IN PROBE.

10. CAMBODIA

NYT'S KAMM (TRAT 5/10) DESCRIBES 10 CAMBODIANS BEING HELD
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IN THAILAND FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY. SAYS THEY LIVE IN CAGE
8 FT SQ/10 FT HIGH, W/ONE PLATE OF RICE/DAY, NO EXERCISE.
SAYS THEY WALKED THRU MOUNTAINOUS JUNGLE 12 DAYS TO ARRIVE
THAILAND, DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM SO LONG AS THEY
GET FOOD/DON'T HAVE LIVE IN CAMBODIA. LET OUT TO TALK W/
REPORTER, THEY TOLD "FAMILIAR TALE" OF LIFE IN CAMBODIA:
LABOR FROM DAWN TO DARK; DEPRIVATION OF ANYTHING EXCEPT
3 SPOONFUL THIN RICE GRUEL TWICE/DAY; SEPARATION FROM
WIVES/CHILDREN; CRUEL PUNISHMENT, USUALLY DEATH, FOR ANY
BREACH OF RULES. BUT KAMM SAYS WHAT EMERGED MORE STRONGLY
WAS THEIR STATE OF MIND: NOT MUCH HOPE FOR FUTURE; NO
KNOWLEDGE WHEREABOUTS SIHANOUK/POL POT OR OF CAMBODIAN-VN
BORDER FIGHTING.

EDITOR OF CHICAGO-BASED MARXIST WKLY, "THE CALL," SAID
THURS REPORTS OF WIDESPREAD ATROCITIES IN CAMBODIA RESULT OF
CIA "MASSIVE PROPAGANDA" EFFORT. EDITOR BURSTEIN RECENTLY
LED GROUP WESTERN REPORTERS ON VISIT TO CAMBODIA/SAID HE
FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT CHARGES OF COERSION/KILLING
CAMBODIANS. ADDED CAMBODIAN GOVT INDICATED TO HIM IT WOULD
SOON OPEN BORDERS TO SIMILAR VISITS BY "UNSYMPATHETIC"
AMERICAN REPORTERS (NYT).

11. CHINA

REUTER (PEKING) NOTES SOVIET OFFICIAL SAID FRI "THERE WAS
AN INCIDENT" 5/9 ON USSURI BORDER, AS CHARGED BY PRC
THURS, AND THAT SOVIETS HAVE "VERY DEEP REGRETS AT THE
INCIDENT." HE COULD NOT SAY IF THESE REGRETS FORMALLY
COMMUNICATED TO PEKING/HAD NO OTHER DETAILS OF AFFAIR;
HOWEVER, HE DENIED ANYONE HAD BEEN WOUNDED SAID "THERE
WERE NO VICTIMS."

REUTER'S PRITCHETT OBSERVES RUSSIAN'S COMMENTS, WHICH SEEMED
INDICATE ADMISSION SOVIETS WERE TO BLAME, PROBABLY MEANS
INCIDENT WILL BE ALLOWED PASS. BUT SAYS INCIDENT WAS
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CERTAIN TO HAVE BEEN RAISED AT 5/12 ILYICHEV-YU TALKS.
PRITCHETT REPORTS CHINESE PUBLIC TOLD ABOUT BORDER INCIDENT
FRI MORNING--MORE THAN 12 HRS AFTER NCNA PUBLISHED PROTEST

NOTE GIVEN SOVIET AMB THURS.

WP'S MARDER REPORTS 5/9 USSURI BORDER INCIDENT "AROUSSED
HIGH INTEREST" IN WH, WHERE BRZEZINSKI PREPARING VISIT
PEKING. MATHEWS (WP HK) OBSERVES THAT WHILE CARTER ADMIN,
OFFICIALLY, DECLINED ANY COMMENT AT THIS TIME ON NEW
USSURI BORDER INCIDENT, PRIVATELY US-CHINA SPECIALISTS
SAID THEIR CURRENT INFO IS LIMITED TO WHAT PEKING
ANNOUNCED, AND THEY ARE WAITING TO HEAR SOVIET VERSION IN
ORDER PROVIDE PERSPECTIVE ON IT. WP'S KLOSE (MOSCOW)
SAYS FACT SOVIETS CAPABLE OF ARMED ATTACKS ON CHINA IS
INDICATED IN WESTERN INTELL REPORTS DATING FROM '69, WHICH
INDICATE KREMLIN SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED WAR ON CHINESE TO
SECURE ITS OWN BORDERS ONCE AND FOR ALL AND ELIMINATE CHINA
AS NUKE POWER. POINTS OUT DECISION TO MAINTAIN 500,000
TROOPS ALONG CHINESE BORDER IS COSTLY TO SOVIETS' LIMITED
ECONOMY.

CSM'S MORITZ (HK) SEES CLOUD CAST OVER NEWLY REOPENED SINO-
SOVIET BORDER NEGOTS BY CHINESE CHARGES OF 5/9 RAID.
THINKS PUBLICATION OF PRC NOTE OF PROTEST VIRTUALLY ENSURES
PEKING'S CHARGES, AND EXPECTED SOVIET RESPONSE WILL DAMPEN
PROSPECTS OF IMPROVED RELS BETWN THEM.

GLOBE'S BEECHER SEES PRC'S RECENT ACTION MAKING AVAILABLE
NEARBY BUILDING FOR USLO'S USE AS ONE OF NUMBER OF SMALL
BUT SIGNIFICANT RECENT PRC STEPS. SAYS MOVES INTERPRETED
IN WASHINGTON AS SIGNALLING THAT PEKING'S LEADERS ARE
AWARE THAT IN ORDER CREATE CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO NORMALIZED
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RELS, CHINA MUST DO ITS PART. POINTS OUT WOODCOCK BEING
GIVEN GREATER ACCESS TO MINISTERIAL-LEVEL OFFICIALS, AND
CHAI TSE-MIN SELECTED TO HEAD PRCLO.

ACCORDING BEECHER, BRZEZINSKI CHINA TRIP SHOULD BE VIEWED
AGAINST BACKDROP. SAYS ADMIN TOOK OFFICE TRUMPETING
DESIRE NORMALIZE RELS DURING FIRST TERM; BUT, EXCEPT FOR
VANCE'S EXPLORATORY PEKING MISSION LAST SUMMER, "PRECIOUS
LITTLE ELSE HAS HAPPENED." SAYS PRES, "QUITE FRANKLY,"
HAD TOO MANY TOUGH ISSUES ON CONGRESSIONAL PLATE TO ADD
PRC.

SUN EDIT CITES INDICATION OF "CHINA'S OPENING DOOR"--VISITS
OF VARIOUS DELEGATIONS ABROAD, TRIPS TO PEKING BY WESTERN

GUESTS. BUT SAYS W/WORD THAT CHINESE ARE ASKING SEIJI OZAWA IMPART HIS KNOW-HOW TO PEKING PHILHARMONIC "COMES NEWS THAT THE CHINESE ARE REALLY SERIOUS."

WSJ STAFFERS CHING/COHEN SAY WHILE PRC IS CALLING FOR "ALL-OUT BATTLE" TO OVERCOME OR PREVENT DROUGHT, AVAILABLE INFO INDICATES CHINESE FARMS AREN'T IN NEARLY AS BAD SHAPE AS LAST YR, SO HUGE US GRAIN SALES UNLIKELY. QUOTE DREXEL BURNHAM LAMBERT, SENIOR VP UHLMANN, THAT CHINESE USE OF WORD "DROUGHT" IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM OURS--THEY USE IT TO STIMULATE PEOPLE TO WORK; HE DISCOUNTS NEWS ABOUT CHINESE DROUGHTS, EXPECTS PEKING WILL BUY ABOUT ANOTHER 500,000 TONS US GRAIN, "AND PROBABLY NOT THAT MUCH." CHICAGO-BASED CROP FORECASTER CONRAD LESLIE SAYS US IS "RESIDUAL" WHEAT SUPPLIER TO PRC; RECENT/FORTHCOMING PURCHASES FROM US ARE MEANT ONLY TO TIDE CHINESE OVER UNTIL SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FROM PRC'S TRADITIONAL SOURCES, CANADA/AUSTRALIA, WHICH IT PREFERS FOR POL REASONS.

12. GENERAL

CSM EDIT URGES GREATER SUPPORT FROM SO-CALLED "VICTIM"
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COUNTRIES--THOSE WHICH ARE INVADDED BY ILLEGAL HEROIN--TO ASIAN REGIONS WHICH GROW OPIUM POPPIES. SAYS WAY TO FRUSTRATE DRUG TRAFFICKERS IS FOR VICTIM COUNTRIES HELP UNWILLING OPIUM-GROWING COUNTRIES HELP THEMSELVES. VANCE

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